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SENATOR EDMUNDS' RESOLUTION.

[We republish the following from *The Boston Journal*, for reference, especially, should Hon. J. G. Blaine have the conduct of foreign affairs after March 4th. — Ed.]

Washington dispatches inform the country that Senator Edmunds introduced the following resolution, and had it referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

That the Government of the United States will look with serious concern and disapproval upon any connection of any European Government with the construction or control of any ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien or across Central America, and must regard any such connection or control as injurious to the just rights or interests of the United States and as a menace to their welfare; that the President be requested to communicate the expression of the views of Congress to the Governments of the countries of Europe.

We need not say that we highly approve this resolution, and regard it as defining the proper and patriotic ground for the Government of the United States to maintain. In reading it every one must see that it is but the condensation of a full discussion of the whole subject contained in two dispatches of Mr. Blaine when he was Secretary of State. One was a diplomatic note sent to all the Powers of Europe, protesting on behalf of the United States against the rumored agreement of those Powers for a European guarantee of the canal's neutrality. The other, which was addressed to Great Britain, fully set forth the attitude of the United States toward the Isthmus question under the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

Mr. Blaine objected to European nations having any connection with the matter, even if they were only contemplating a course which the United States would voluntarily adopt. He did not desire the European Powers to join with the United States in neutralizing the canal for the world's commerce, because, as he said, "the right to assent implies the right to dissent, and thus the whole question would be thrown open for contention as an international issue." Mr. Blaine added that "it is the fixed purpose of the United States to consider the question as strictly and solely an American question, to be dealt with and decided by the American Powers." We are glad that so eminent a Senator as Mr. Edmunds is reaffirming Mr. Blaine's position. Should the question be debated, Senators will do well to consult the dispatches of Mr. Blaine on this subject, which will be found in "The Foreign Relations of the United States" for 1881, under the head of Great Britain.

It may be well to recall also that last winter a Republican Senate and a Democratic House, by large majorities in both branches, agreed to summon a Congress of American Nations to meet in Washington during the coming year, for the mutual strengthening and helpfulness of all who inhabit North and South America. That was also a singular vindication of Mr. Blaine's policy while Secretary of State. It is well to recall that he issued, with the approval of both President Garfield and President Arthur, an invitation to all American nations to meet in a Congress at Washington in 1882. More than one-half the invitations had been accepted when Mr. Frelinghuysen succeeded Mr. Blaine in the State Department.

Mr. Frelinghuysen's opinions were adverse to such a Congress, and he induced President Arthur to reverse the policy and to recall the invitations. We plainly expressed our views at the time as to the great mistake thus committed. We are glad that, though tardily Congress has reaffirmed the wisdom of this policy.

Whatever of merit there may be in these diplomatic

movements belongs of right to Mr. Blaine. And now, when they meet with the general approval of all parties, it is an instructive lesson to recall that in 1881 and 1882 they were warmly denounced as specimens of "adventurous diplomacy," and as embodying the very spirit and essence of "Jingoism." Perhaps this ground was largely taken as a makeweight against Mr. Blaine's candidacy for the Presidency then impending. As he has now definitely retired from the Presidential field, it seems that he can have credit for what he did in the field of diplomacy.

Time does make all things even!

THE PAST YEAR.

With the exception of a few skirmishes in connection with the colonizing enterprises of the European Powers—such as the fighting around Suakim, the troubles on the east coast of Africa and the struggle between the adherents of Tamasese and Malietoa in Samoa—the year just closed has been one of profound peace throughout the world. Yet an uneasy expectancy of war has haunted the year, and the shadow of it is projected forward upon the new year. The vast military forces which are maintained in readiness for action by Russia, Germany, Austria, France and Italy are in themselves an element of disquiet. Russia has continued her policy, under one pretext or another, of massing troops along her western and southern frontiers, and counter movements upon a considerable scale have been made by Germany and Austria—all with professions of pacific intentions. The internal condition of Russia has been quiet, and Nihilistic operations appear to have subsided, unless investigation shows, as is now thought probable, that the recent accident to the Imperial railway train, from which the Czar and his family narrowly escaped with their lives, was the outcome of a revolutionary plot. An increase of irritation between Russia and Germany and a marked access of cordiality between Russia and France stimulated by enthusiastic subscriptions to the Russian loan by the French people, are significant circumstances which point to possible alliances in future complications. Italy, by her ambitious and somewhat mysterious operations at Massowah, has aroused the jealousy of France; and the international understanding to which Italy, with Austria and Germany, is a party, is further irritating to France pride inasmuch as that understanding tacitly recognizes France and Russia as prospective disturbers of the peace, and makes preparations accordingly. Italy has recalled most of her expeditionary force from Massowah, and pushes her military and naval preparations with an earnestness which betokens a disposition to participate actively in any complications which may arise. As for France, shifting Ministries and the uncertain balancing of political factions almost paralyze her influence in European politics. The very framework of the Government is at stake in these quarrels of parties, yet the first note would probably arouse the old patriotism and silence the clash of factions. There is really no more reason—unless it is to be found in the change of sovereigns in Germany—to anticipate war in Europe in this year than there was a year ago, and it may be that there lies before us a year as free from any considerable collision of arms as that which has closed.—*Exchange.*